

MONTANA ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

June 2003

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

Not seasonally adjusted

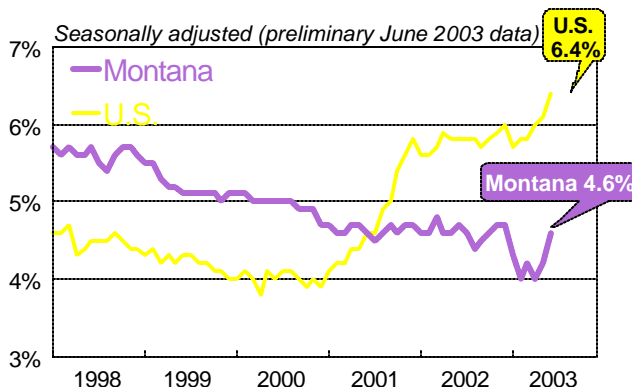
	June 2002	June 2003*
UNITED STATES	6.0%	6.5%
MONTANA	4.4%	4.3%
Cascade **	4.4%	4.5%
Missoula **	3.8%	3.3%
Yellowstone **	3.8%	3.4%
Beaverhead	3.6%	3.4%
Big Horn	15.1%	15.6%
Blaine	6.2%	4.9%
Broadwater	4.0%	4.3%
Carbon	3.5%	2.9%
Carter	2.6%	2.6%
Chouteau	2.9%	2.3%
Custer	2.7%	2.3%
Daniels	2.3%	1.6%
Dawson	2.8%	2.2%
Deer Lodge	6.7%	4.9%
Fallon	3.3%	1.9%
Fergus	3.6%	4.5%
Flathead	4.7%	5.5%
Gallatin	2.3%	2.4%
Garfield	2.2%	1.6%
Glacier	10.6%	12.2%
Golden Valley	3.8%	5.1%
Granite	6.1%	5.7%
Hill	4.4%	4.5%
Jefferson	3.6%	4.8%
Judith Basin	5.2%	3.8%
Lake	6.9%	6.4%
Lewis & Clark	4.1%	3.8%
Liberty	3.3%	2.2%
Lincoln	11.2%	14.7%
McCone	1.1%	1.3%
Madison	2.8%	2.8%
Meagher	5.2%	4.4%
Mineral	7.8%	7.6%
Musselshell	6.9%	5.6%
Park	3.4%	3.5%
Petroleum	1.5%	3.4%
Phillips	4.4%	3.9%
Pondera	5.2%	5.9%
Powder River	2.1%	1.3%
Powell	5.8%	5.8%
Prairie	3.5%	1.7%
Ravalli	4.3%	4.5%
Richland	6.0%	4.8%
Roosevelt	7.4%	8.4%
Rosebud	6.9%	6.7%
Sanders	6.7%	7.4%
Sheridan	3.2%	2.9%
Silver Bow	5.1%	4.6%
Stillwater	3.3%	3.1%
Sweet Grass	2.9%	2.2%
Teton	3.3%	3.2%
Toole	2.9%	3.3%
Treasure	1.6%	2.5%
Valley	3.2%	3.4%
Wheatland	4.0%	3.8%
Wibaux	3.7%	2.8%

*June 2003 rate preliminary

** Cascade=Great Falls MSA
Missoula=Missoula MSA
Yellowstone=Billings MSA

JUNE 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment

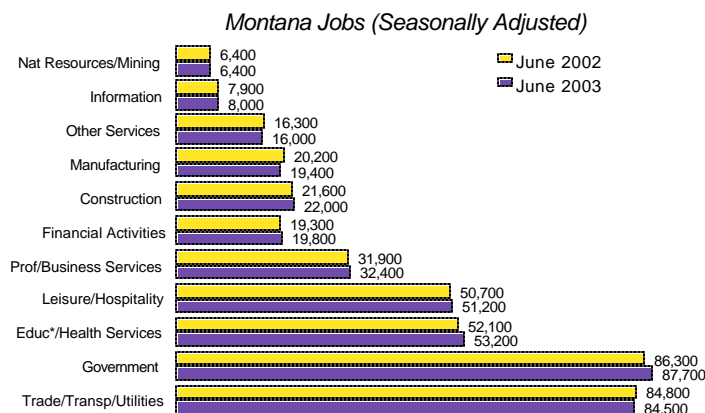


Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be lower than the U.S. rate. The state's June unemployment of 4.6 percent was 1.8 percentage points lower than the nation's.

Earnings

Average weekly earnings for Montana's private sector production workers were up 5.0 percent over the year in June, outpacing the 2.1 percent over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.

Nonag Payroll Employment



*Private educational services. (Public education is included in the government sector.)

Montana's seasonally-adjusted, nonagricultural payroll employment was up about 3,100 jobs (0.8 percentage points) over the year in June. The largest over-the-year gains were in government, private education & health services, financial activities, leisure & hospitality, professional & business services and construction.

CENSUS 2000

Workers commuting to another county

Census 2000 information just released shows counts of workers commuting to work in Montana counties other than where they live.

C 410 commuters travel from other counties or from out of state to Sweet Grass county to work (22.6 percent of Sweet Grass County's labor force).

C 822 commuters travel from other counties or from out of state to Stillwater County to work (19.6 percent of Stillwater county's labor force).

C 526 commuters travel from other counties or from out of state to Powell County to work (19.1 percent of Powell County's labor force).

For more information, visit the Montana Census and Economic Information Center website at <http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us>

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3,000 copies of this publication were produced at a unit cost of 43 cents per copy for a total cost of \$1,290.00, which includes \$180.00 for printing and \$1,110.00 for distribution.

IMMIGRATION IN MONTANA

Even though most new foreign immigrants continue flocking to the larger metropolitan areas of the United States, some come to the Big Sky Country to work for Montana employers. Many enter the United States under the H-1b, H-2b and Permanent Visa programs.



- S These workers cannot be paid just any wage by their employers.
- S They must be paid at least the Alien Labor Certification Prevailing Wage Rate.

Research and Analysis Bureau's Research Specialist Bob Schleicher has been setting these rates since the passage of the Immigration Act of 1990. Schleicher is interviewed in the upcoming article, "The New Wave of Immigration," written by Tina Hash, Research and Analysis Bureau technical writer, for the Second Quarter Montana Employment and Labor Force Trends publication.

The publication should be available in August 2003 and on the Internet at:
<http://rad.dli.state.mt.us/pubs/>

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